

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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S E C R E T STATE 210448

EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. ALLON COMMENTS ON FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON

ISRAELI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON FOCUSED ON THE FEDAYEEN PROBLEM WITH AMBASSADOR KEATING OCTOBER 24 BY REFERRING TO ISRAEL'S DECISION TO ABSTAIN FROM RETALIATION AGAINST THE FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON. HE SAID ISRAEL UNDERSTOOD THE DILEMMA: LEBANON CLAIMS IT IS TOO WEAK TO CONTROL THE FEDAYEEN; ISRAEL COULD CONTROL THEM BY SENDING SMALL UNITS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON, BUT THIS WOULD CREATE ANOTHER POLITICAL CRISIS WHICH ISRAEL WISHES TO AVOID. ALLON STRESSED THAT THE LEBANESE HAD TO ACT OR THE GOI WOULD BE FORCED TO BY DOMESTIC PRESSURES. (SECRET) TEL AVIV 8578, 10/24 (EXDIS).

### 2. ASAD GOVERNMENT IN PRECARIOUS POSITION

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THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA INFORMED EMBASSY AMMAN THAT THE SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE WAS DELAYED BY PRESIDENT ASAD'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. HE

SAID ONLY ASAD AND HIGHER SYRIAN COMMAND OFFICERS

DESIRED THE CEASE-FIRE, WHILE THE FEDAYEEN AND IRAQIS TRIED TO PREVENT THE SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE. THE PRESENCE OF MASSIVE IRAQI FORCES IN SYRIA IS VIEWED AS DANGEROUS FOR ASAD. MOREOVER, THE FEDAYEEN HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH THE IRAQIS. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES A POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR ASAD WOULD BE FOR THE JORDANIAN ARMY TO MOVE INTO SYRIA AS A COUNTER-BALANCE TO THE IRAQIS. (SECRET) AMMAN 5675,10 /24.

### 3. FRANCE TORPEDOES EC NINE'S MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS

QUAI MIDDLE EAST DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROUILLON TOLD EMBASSY PARIS THAT FRANCE HAD TORPEDOED THE EC NINE'S ATTEMPTS TO REACH A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN LONDON OCTOBER 22. WHILE STRESSING THE SINCERITY OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR UNSC RESOLUTION 338, ROUILLON SAID FRANCE CONSIDERED IT DEMEANING FOR WESTERN EUROPE TO "PRONOUNCE BENEDICTION" OVER THIS RESOLUTION. HE CONCEDED THAT FRANCE, HOLDING TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EC NINE MUST NEVER STOOP TO RUBBER STAMPING THE WORK OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS, STOOD ALONE AGAINST A CONCERTED EFFORT OF THE OTHER EIGHT TO PRODUCE AN ENDORSEMENT STATEMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 27603, 10/24 (LIMDIS).

### 4. THAILAND TO INITIATE NEW FOREIGN POLICY?

BANGKOK POST REPORTED OCTOBER 23 THAT THAILAND'S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN BEFORE AND WILL EMPHASIZE "NATIONAL INTERESTS" INSTEAD OF "BENDING WITH THE FREE WORLD." THE PAPER CITED UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES AS SAYING THAILAND WILL BEFRIEND ALL NON-HOSTILE COUNTRIES, SECRET

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REMAIN ACTIVE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ULTIMATE NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE POST REPRESENTED THIS AS A PRECIS OF A FULL-DRESS FOREIGN POLICY DECLARATION SCHEDULED FOR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 25. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK16547, 10/24.

### 5. SADAT'S ACCEPTANCE OF CEASE-FIRE UNPOPULAR IN EGYPT

THE GENERAL REACTION IN EGYPT TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE APPEARS TO BE NEGATIVE, WITH MANY EGYPTIANS CONSUMED WITH DOUBT AND SUSPICION.

OUR INTERESTS SECTION ADDS THAT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SADAT IS FACED WITH A POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE SITUATION WHICH MAY BE TRANSLATED INTO REAL PRESSURES ON BOTH

THE CEASE-FIRE OBSERVANCE AND ON HIS LEADERSHIP  
POSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 3233, 10/24.

6. GERMAN CHANCELLERY SUFFERS FROM AIMLESS LEADERSHIP

PUBLIC CRITICISM OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S INEFFECTIVE  
LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN LARGELY CONFIRMED IN CONVERSATIONS  
WITH RELIABLE SOURCES IN AND AROUND THE CHANCELLOR'S  
OFFICE. THE CHANCELLERY IS REPORTEDLY POORLY RUN,  
AND BRANDT IS FEELING EVEN MORE ADRIFT IN TRYING TO  
DEAL WITH ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL PROBLEMS  
CONFRONTING HIM. THIS SEEMINGLY AIMLESS APPROACH  
TO LEADERSHIP HAS OFFENDED TOP SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY FIGURES, BUT NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION  
IS FORESEEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 15338, 10/24. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 11 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE210448  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** S/S-O: NAGAO  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** P750020-0881  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, LE, TH, SY, FR, (SADAT), (ALLON), (KEATING)  
**To:** JCS SECDEF  
CIA  
WHITE HOUSE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005